AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 25, through page 17, line 23, as follows:

After the general computer 1 finishes notifying the host computer 2 that the reception of all the update software is completed in step S11, the general computer 1 terminates the communication with the host computer 2 in step S11. Also, the general computer 1 rewrites and updates the software on the HDD with the update software in step S12. Further, the general computer 1 starts the "software update program" stored on the optical disk 10, thereby driving the optical disk drive device 9. Thus, the software in the region C of the optical disk 10 is automatically rewritten and updated with the update software stored on the HDD in step S13. In other words, the software of the optical disk 10, which was distributed from the software distributor, is rewritten and updated to the latest version. In the prior art, the recording operation on an optical disk was time consuming, but a high-speed recording operation can be performed on the optical disk 10 by the optical disk drive device 9. As the data rewrite time required for the optical disk 10 is shorter, it is considerably advantageous that the software of the optical disk 10, which was originally distributed by the software distributor, can be rewritten and updated to the latest version.

Rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 23, through page 20, line 10, as follows:

Once in a connected state, the "transmission program" stored on the optical disk 10 is started so as to automatically transmit the inherent ID information allocated to the optical disk 10 to the host computer 2 via the communication device, which is

constituted by the communication line connecting device 5, the communication network 4, and the communication line connecting device 6, in step S22. Upon receipt of the inherent ID information, the host computer 2 performs a receiving operation of the inherent ID information in step T12. The host computer 2 then inquires about the received inherent ID information from the user information database, and performs an ID authentication process to ~~determined~~ determine whether or not the received inherent ID information has been properly set by the software distributor in step T13. If the authentication judgment result does not indicate that the received inherent ID information is proper information, the communication is terminated in step T18, and the operation comes to an end. On the contrary, if the authentication judgment result indicates that the received inherent ID information is proper information, the host computer 2 transmits the result to the general computer 1, and determines whether or not a software updating process is required and can be permitted by comparing the software version information already distributed to the software user having the inherent ID information with the latest version information of the corresponding software in step T14. If it is determined that no software updating process is required as a result of the comparison, the communication is terminated in step T18, and the operation comes to an end. On the contrary, if the software already distributed to the software user is older, and a software updating process is allowed by the software producer (the host computer 2), a software updating process is required, and the update software is transmitted to the general computer 1 in step T15.

Rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 4, as follows:

If accounting procedures are necessary for rewriting or update software, a software user makes the payment in advance, and the host computer 2 records information that indicates the settlement of the account and the allowance of the

updating of the software on the user information database. If no payment has been made, the updating of the software of the software user is recorded as "unallowable" on the user information database. Accordingly, no software updating process ~~cannot~~ can be performed.